

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 420

Expressing the sense of the Senate that effective treatment and access to care for individuals with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis should be improved.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 3, 2006

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that effective treatment and access to care for individuals with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis should be improved.

Whereas psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are serious, chronic, inflammatory, disfiguring, and life-altering diseases that require sophisticated medical intervention and care;

Whereas, according to the National Institutes of Health, between 5,800,000 citizens and 7,500,000 citizens of the United States are affected by psoriasis;

Whereas psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis are—

- (1) painful and disabling diseases with no cure; and
- (2) diseases that have a significant and adverse impact on the quality of life of individuals diagnosed with them;

Whereas studies have indicated that psoriasis may cause as much physical and mental disability as other major diseases, including—

- (1) cancer;
- (2) arthritis;
- (3) hypertension;
- (4) heart disease;
- (5) diabetes; and
- (6) depression;

Whereas studies have shown that psoriasis is associated with elevated rates of depression and suicidal ideation;

Whereas citizens of the United States spend between \$2,000,000,000 and \$3,000,000,000 to treat psoriasis each year;

Whereas early diagnosis and treatment of psoriatic arthritis may help prevent irreversible joint damage;

Whereas treating psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis presents a challenge for patients and health care providers because—

- (1) no single treatment works for every patient diagnosed with the disease;
- (2) some treatments lose effectiveness over time; and
- (3) all treatments have the potential to cause a unique set of side effects;

Whereas, although safer and more effective treatments are now more readily available, many people do not have access to them; and

Whereas Congress as an institution, and the members of Congress as individuals, are in a unique position to help raise public awareness about the need for increased ac-

cess to effective treatment options for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes—

3 (A) the need for enhanced public aware-
4 ness of psoriasis;

5 (B) the adverse impact that psoriasis can
6 have on people living with the disease; and

7 (C) the importance of an early diagnosis
8 and proper treatment of psoriasis;

9 (2) supports the continuing leadership provided
10 by the Director of the National Institutes of Health
11 and the Director of the National Institute of Arthri-
12 tis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases for iden-
13 tifying a cure and developing safer, more effective
14 treatments for psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis; and

15 (3) encourages—

16 (A) researchers to examine the negative
17 psychological and physical effects of psoriasis to
18 better understand its impact on those who have
19 been diagnosed with the disease; and

20 (B) efforts to increase access to treatments
21 and care that individuals living with psoriasis
22 and psoriatic arthritis need and deserve.

○